

Listing of Claims.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for identifying and monitoring women at risk of developing OSE-derived carcinomas, which includes:

~~includes~~ an introducer needle configured ~~to be capable of~~ for insertion into a female such that a terminal end of said needle is positioned adjacent an ovary of the female;

a microendoscope having a housing having an optic fiber operably extending therefrom which is operably insertable into said needle in a manner to enable an image of the ovary to be obtained therethrough, said housing having a first channel defined therein to receive said optic fiber, a second channel configured to receive an optic light source for illumination of said optic fiber and a third channel; and

a tissue removing member insertable through said third channel in a manner to be operably co-insertable into said needle with said optic fiber therein to enable removal of ovarian tissue cells with minimal deleterious effect to the ovary.

2. (As originally filed) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said needle is equipped with a stylet which extends through said needle to block unwanted material from entering said needle and includes an end which seats against a neck of said needle and which can be gripped to permit removal of said stylet.

3. (As originally filed) The apparatus of claim 2, whereupon removal of said stylet, said optic fiber is further characterized to extend out of an open connector surface of a housing of said microendoscope, wherein said open connector surface is sealably connectable to said neck of said needle with said optic fiber extending into said needle.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said ~~microendoscope includes a~~ housing ~~having an~~ said optic fiber operably extending therefrom substantially a length equal to said needle such that when operably inserted therein ends of said needle and optic fiber are generally co-terminus.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein said microendoscope includes a fiber optic light source operably connected to said second channel of said housing such that said optic fiber is illuminated and a camera operably connected to said first channel thereto for viewing the image seen through said optic fiber.

6. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said camera is preferably connected to a monitor operably connected to a computer having software to enable viewing of said image and recordation of physician notes into a data file associated with said viewed image.

7. (As originally filed) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said computer includes a microphone operably connected thereto and said software includes voice recognition and is operably associated with said microphone to permit said notes to be recorded via said voice recognition software.

8. (As originally filed) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said monitor and said computer are integrally formed in a touch screen monitor computer.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said housing further includes a port communicating with said third channel through which said the tissue removing member can be inserted, said port communicating with said open connector surface.

10. (As originally filed) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said tissue removing member can be an ovarian cytology brush.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said housing is generally v-shaped having partitions therein which define said channels.

12. (As originally filed) The apparatus of claim 1, which further includes a flexible protective tubing covering said optic fiber.

Please cancel claims 13-18 without prejudice as non-elected claims at this time.